

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12-18, 20, 21 and 24-30 are in this case. Claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 21 and 24 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 8, 20 and 25-30 have been allowed. Claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 21 and 24 have been canceled.

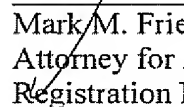
§ 103(a) Rejections – APA in view of Attanasio et al. '017

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 21 and 24 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Attanasio et al., US Patent No. 5,918,017. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-6, 9, 12-18, 21 and 24 now have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 25-30, and hence dependent claims 8 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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